

Prophet Musa (A) Converses with Allah (SWT)

Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the conversation between Allah (SWT) and Prophet Musa (A)
- To learn about the miracles given to Prophet Musa (A)
- To review the memorisation of Surat al-A'la

After spending a decade or more in Madyan, Prophet Musa (A) decided to go back to Egypt.

فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَجَلَ وَسَارَ بِأَهْلِهِ آنَسَ مِنْ جَانِبِ الطُّورِ نَارًا قَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ
امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَّعَلِّي آتِيكُمْ مِنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ جَذْوَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَصْطَلُونَ

So when Musa had fulfilled the term, and he journeyed with his family, he perceived on this side of the mountain a fire. He said to his family: Wait, I have seen a fire, maybe I will bring to you from it some news or a brand of fire, so that you may warm yourselves. (28:29)

A similar verse is mentioned in Surat Taha where a beautiful detail is mentioned:

إِذْ رَأَىٰ نَارًا فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَّعَلِّي آتِيكُمْ مِنْهَا بِقَبَسٍ أَوْ
أَجْدُ عَلَى النَّارِ هُدًى

When he saw fire, he said to his family: Stop, for surely I see a fire, haply I may bring to you therefrom a live coal or find a guidance at the fire. (20:10)

This fire was only seen by Prophet Musa (A) and when he said '...or find a guidance at the fire' he never thought that Allah (SWT) would speak to him and guide him through his mission.

Surat al-Qasas verses 30-32

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ مِنْ شَاطِئِ الْوَادِ الْأَيْمَنِ فِي الْبُقْعَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ مِنَ الشَّجَرَةِ أَنْ يَا
مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ

And when he came to it, a voice was uttered from the right side of the valley in the blessed spot of the bush, saying: O Musa! surely I am Allah, the Lord of the worlds. (28:30)

وَأَنْ أَلْقِ عَصَاكَ ۖ فَلَمَّا رَآهَا تَهْتَزُّ كَأَنَّهَا جَانٌّ وَلَّى مُدْبِرًا وَلَمْ يُعَقِّبْ ۚ يَا
مُوسَى أَقْبِلْ وَلَا تَخَفْ ۚ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْآمِنِينَ

And saying: Cast down you staff. So when he saw it in motion as if it were a serpent, he turned back retreating, and did not return. O Musa! come forward and fear not; surely you are of those who are secure; (28:31)

اسْلُكْ يَدَكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجْ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ وَاضْمُمْ إِلَيْكَ جَنَاحَكَ مِنَ
الرَّهْبِ ۚ فَذَانِكَ بُرْهَانَانِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ ۚ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا
فَاسِقِينَ

'Insert your hand into your shirt. It will emerge white, without any fault, and keep your arms drawn in awe to your sides. These shall be two proofs from your Lord to Pharaoh and his elite. They are indeed a transgressing lot.' (28:32)

Allah (SWT) begins His communication with Prophet Musa (A) and the first thing that is mentioned is Tawheed – Oneness of Allah (SWT). Tawheed is the basis of faith. The main message of all the prophets was to convey the message of Tawhid and the hereafter. After Allah (SWT) introduces Himself to Prophet Musa (A), He gives Prophet Musa (A) two miracles/proofs that Prophet Musa (A) has to show Pharaoh as a sign of his prophethood and to convince Pharaoh.

Again, looking at Surat Taha verses 11-24, which mentions this incident, however in much more detail:

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ يَا مُوسَىٰ

So when he came to it, a voice was uttered: O Musa:

إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ فَاحْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ ۚ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى

Surely I am your Lord, therefore put off your shoes; surely you are in the sacred valley, Tuwa,

وَأَنَا اخْتَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَمِعْ لِمَا يُوحَىٰ

And I have chosen you, so listen to what is revealed:

إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي

Surely I am Allah, there is no god but I, therefore serve Me and keep up prayer for My remembrance:

إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ أَكَادُ أُخْفِيهَا لِتُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا تَسْعَىٰ

Surely the hour is coming-- I am about to make it manifest-- so that every soul may be rewarded as it strives:

فَلَا يَصُدُّكَ عَنْهَا مَنْ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِهَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ فَتَرْدَىٰ

Therefore let not him who believes not in it and follows his low desires turn you away from it so that you should perish;

وَمَا تِلْكَ يَمِينِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ

And what is this in your right hand, O Musa!

قَالَ هِيَ عَصَايَ أَتَوَكَّأُ عَلَيْهَا وَأَهُشُّ بِهَا عَلَىٰ غَنَمِي وَلِيَ فِيهَا مَآرِبُ أُخْرَىٰ

He said: This is my staff: I recline on it and I beat the leaves with it to make them fall upon my sheep, and I have other uses for it.

قَالَ أَلْقِهَا يَا مُوسَىٰ

He said: Cast it down, O Musa!

فَأَلْقَاهَا فَإِذَا هِيَ حَيَّةٌ تَسْعَىٰ

So he cast it down; and lo! it was a serpent running.

قَالَ خُذْهَا وَلَا تَخَفْ ۚ سَنُعِيدُهَا سِيرَتَهَا الْأُولَىٰ

He said: Take hold of it and fear not; We will restore it to its former state:

وَاضْمُمْ يَدَكَ إِلَىٰ جَنَاحِكَ تَخْرُجَ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ آيَةً أُخْرَىٰ

And press your hand to your side, it shall come out white without evil: another sign:

لِنُرِيكَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا الْكُبْرَىٰ

That We may show you of Our greater signs:

اذهبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ

Go to Firon, surely he has exceeded all limits.

Reflection:

Re-read the conversation between Allah (SWT) and Prophet Musa (A). Look at the way Allah (SWT) describes Himself – again He begins with Tawheed and mentions the day of judgement – the two main messages of all the prophets.

He (SWT) then states that He has chosen Prophet Musa (A) for this mission so he should listen to the following command.

Allah (SWT) gave Prophet Musa (A) two very powerful miracles/signs to show Pharaoh.

Also, analyse Prophet Musa (A)'s response to Allah (SWT) when he was asked about his staff.

[Reflection points for teachers to probe the students:

Prophet Musa (A) talked about his staff in detail because he wanted an excuse to talk to Allah (SWT) and to extend the conversation as much as he could. This is someone who is in love with Allah (SWT) and all he wants to do is talk to his Beloved.

Do you remember a time you wanted to keep talking to someone? For example your friend.

Now consider this: What if you wanted someone to talk to you. You would naturally ask questions to keep that conversations going.

Look at the conversation again, you will notice that Allah (SWT) is asking Prophet Musa (A) questions because He wants Prophet Musa (A) to talk to Him and at the same time Prophet Musa (A) is giving long answers for something as simple as a staff because he too wants to keep talking to Allah (SWT).

This is a communication between two friends.

If Allah (SWT) was to speak to you today, how would your communication with Him be compared to the one above?]

Next lesson will look at the response of Prophet Musa (A) after he was given the miracles and commanded to go back to Egypt.